

PLEASE TAKE THIS BULLETIN HOME!

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday, December 17 ♦ Third Sunday in Advent

9:00 a.m. Betty J. Duffy (Tom Duffy)
 11:00 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family
 - *Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28*

Monday, December 18 ♦ No Mass

Tuesday, December 19 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

6:15 p.m. Bonnie J. Henry (Blaine-Nikki Henry & Family)
 - *Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25*

Wednesday, December 20 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Bishop Rudolf Deng Majak (Robert C. Carter)
 - *Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38*

Thursday, December 21 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Msgr. Roland T. Winel (Robert C. Carter)
 - *Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18; Lk 1:39-45*

Friday, December 22 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11: 30 a.m. Living & Deceased of Cullinan Family
 (Jeanne C. Brown)
 - *1 Sm 1: 24-28; Lk 1: 46- 56*

Saturday, December 23 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Martha Walsh (Walsh-Burkey Family)
 - *Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24; Lk 1: 57-66*

Sunday, December 24 ♦ Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:00 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family
 - *2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16: 25-27; Lk 1: 26-38*

**** Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)**

4:00 p.m. Betty Morbitzer Family (Betty Morbitzer)
 - *Is 62: 1-5; Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25; Mt 1: 1-25 or 18-25*

+ Please remember in your prayers

our home-bound parishioners, and those who are ill: Michael Baker, Betty Cockran, Richard Deneski, Ann Froesch, Bernadette Froesch, Sr. Sally Groom, Robert Hackett, Ted Igel, Louise Knapp, Julie Litsinberger, Ellen McMillen, Mary McNellis, Andy Piaskowy, Marilyn Scott.

St. Lawrence Haven – January 14, 2018

Attention all our “Lil Larry” sandwich makers. Sunday, January 14, 2018, is your next opportunity to support St. Lawrence Haven is following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Cross School.



WEDDING BANNES

Prayerful best wishes to Blake Kramer & Jaime Hegret, who will be married in our Parish Church on Sunday, December 31.

**Angel Tree Gifts Due TODAY!
 ATTENTION, ALL ANGELS!**

It’s time to shine! *Today is the last day to bring all your gifts* for J.O.I.N.’s children to the church. Please remember: **DO NOT WRAP the item.** Simply *attach the tag* to the item, return the tagged item to the rear of the church by the Christmas Angel Tree, and *draw a star after your name in the book* to show that you have returned the requested/tagged item.



Religious Retirement Collection Results

Thank you for the generosity and support of the Religious Retirement collection held last week. \$365.00 was contributed.



Parking for Christmas Eve

Extra parking is available during Christmas Eve Mass at OPERS garage, just north of the Rectory (corner of 5th & Town Street) from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We have made arrangements for you to enter from the **Town Street entrance for your convenience.**

Diocesan Charities Collection

A second collection will be taken for the Diocesan Charities during the Christmas Masses. This collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations, including J.O.I.N., St. Stephen’s Community House, Catholic Social Services, St. Lawrence Haven, St. Vincent Family Center & St. Vincent de Paul Society.

THANKS!
DECEMBER 10, 2017

Designated Collections	
(Funds forwarded directly to the Diocese)	Offertory..... \$3,610.50
Rel Retire. = \$365.00	Mail-in..... \$ 274.00
Mass Attendance	Repair Collection \$ 0.00
9:00 a.m. = 98	Mail-in Repair \$ 0.00
11:00 a.m. = 116	Less 6% Diocese Tax (\$ 233.04)
	Net To Parish \$3,650.96

THE WORD

How do you answer the questions put to John in today's Gospel? I recently changed ministry, becoming associate pastor of a parish in Maryland and, concurrently, a campus priest and associate director of campus ministry for a university in Ohio. What am I? Well, whether in Maryland or Ohio, what I am is a child of God and a Christian, called to witness Christ in my words, deeds, and attitudes.

Our first reading begins with the words Jesus used to identify himself at the beginning of his public ministry: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me." Jesus Christ was anointed to bring glad tidings to the poor, heal the broken, proclaim liberty and release to those bound in any way, and to rejoice in the Lord. We also have been anointed with the Spirit. We are to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in our lives. Or, to paraphrase Blessed Louis Brisson, OSFS, the founder of my religious community: Reprint the Gospel, day by day, with your flesh and blood. What are we? We are living Gospels who heal and offer liberty to people held captive in any way, by announcing God's favor so all people can sing with Mary: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." (Luke 1:46)

When we live Paul's admonitions to pray without ceasing, always give thanks, retain what is good, and refrain from evil, we make straight the way of the Lord and show others how to do so. What are we? Children of God, Christ-bearers who have reason to "Rejoice!"

- *How do you answer the question, "What or who are you" in light of your faith?*
- *Name concrete ways you can live the words of the prophet Isaiah, as Jesus did.*

"Living the Word"

Bethesda Healing Ministry

Sometimes memories can keep us from experiencing the fullness of new life, even following the reception and graced forgiveness from the Sacrament of Penance. If you have experienced abortion in your life and the memory continues to haunt you, perhaps inviting Jesus often into that memory will open your spirit to the peace only He can give. Begin by praying "Jesus, I don't want to be chained any longer to the memories of the abortion. Please come and heal me." To share the graces of this journey with those who have been there, contact Bethesda Healing Ministry confidential lines: 614-309-2651 or 614-309-0157 or visit our website at bethesdahealing.org

Special Parish Dates

Mark your calendars for the following important dates for the parish:

MASS SCHEDULES – Christmas

December 24, 2017 – Sunday Morning – 10:00 a.m. only

December 24, 2017 – Christmas Eve – 4:00 p.m.

December 25, 2017 – Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m. only

December 26, 2017 – Tuesday – NO MASS

December 27, 2017 – Wednesday – NO MASS

December 28, 2017 – Thursday – NO MASS

January 1, 2018 – Monday – NO MASS (Not a Holyday)

January 2, 2018 – Tuesday – NO MASS

The Pastor's Corner

Rejoice! It is the third Sunday of Advent! Some things just take time. It takes time for crops to grow, for bread to rise, and for wine to age. It takes time to learn how to play a musical instrument or to develop athletic skill. Some things cannot be rushed. We do what we can to prepare the earth or strengthen our bodies for the tasks we want to accomplish; then, we wait. It is hard to wait, especially when we anticipate good results. We wish that children would master their lessons, and that a beloved one will return safe from "peace-keeping" in other countries. It is hard to wait for what we want. Sometimes we do not behave our best while we are waiting. We grow impatient and irritable.

God is slow. It took thousands of years for God to deliver on His promise to Abraham. Eventually, the child was born in Bethlehem. Then, people had to wait for the child to grow up. Then, when Jesus died on the cross, people had to wait on the resurrection. Even today, we still wait for Jesus to come back again; and while we wait, we pray.

ARE YOU IN NEED OF A LATE-DAY CHRISTMAS MASS

because of work or other circumstances? Saint Joseph Cathedral will be celebrating a 5:15 p.m. Mass on Monday, December 25. The Cathedral is located at 212 East Broad Street, in downtown Columbus; secured parking is accessible off East Gay Street. For more information, call the Cathedral at (614) 224-1295, or visit www.saintjosephcathedral.org.